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27. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the nucleic acid sequences encoding HIF-1 α are detected using a nucleotide probe that hybridizes to the nucleic acid sequences.

28. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the nucleic acid sequences encoding HIF-1 α are detected by selective amplification of the nucleic acid sequences using polymerase chain reaction.

29. (previously presented) A method according to claim 26, wherein the nucleic acid sequences encoding HIF-1 α are detected by selective amplification of the nucleic acid sequences using polymerase chain reaction.

30. (previously presented) A method according to claim 20, wherein the level of placental expression of HIF-1 α is measured during the first trimester of pregnancy. 20.

(previously presented) A method for diagnosing increased risk of preeclampsia in a subject which comprises: (a) measuring levels of placental expression of HIF-1 α in a sample from the subject; and (b) comparing the levels of expression of HIF-1 α to the levels in a subject with normal pregnancy, wherein increased levels of HIF-1 α compared to levels in a subject with a normal pregnancy indicates an increased risk of preeclampsia in the subject.